

THE NUMISMATIC JOURNAL.

IN THE INTEREST OF COIN AND CURIOSITY COLLECTORS.

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COINS OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

Of Japan These are thin plates of gold and silver of an oval figure, with small marks or figures stamped upon them.

China. These are only copper about the size of a farthing, with a square hole in the middle to put them on strings. The inscriptions on them do not express the name of the Sovereign, but the year of his reign, as "the happy year, the illustrious year," etc.

Arabia. Some of the coins of the petty princes of Arabia are met with as old as the imperial ages of Rome, but till the time of Haroun Alrashid, no regular coin appear in the vast empire of the Saracens. Even then the reverse has only an inscription and the obverse is copied from any Greek or Syrian coin which happened to fall in the moneyer's way. The later Arabian coins are mostly silver, with the name and titles of the prince on one side, and some inscription from the Koran on the other.

The Tartarian coins are rude, having only inscriptions on them and are all posterior to the time of Jenghiz Khan.

Coins of Thibet, Pegu and Siam, are much the same, presenting only inscriptions without any figures. They are also of late date.

India. Some old coins have been found in the

neighborhood of Calcutta of gold, silver, copper and tin all mixed together. These have commonly a warrior with a sword on one side, and an Indian female on the other, of the same features as of the celebrated Sculptures of the Island of Elphanta, but it is impossible to tell what antiquity they are of. The modern coins are the pagoda of gold, worth a little more than \$1 25. the rupee of silver 50 cents, and the caih of copper. There is a remarkable set of rupees which show the twelve signs; a lion on one and a bull on another etc., but the occasion on which they were struck is unknown. The other coins of India have generally Persian inscriptions.

Persia. The Persian coins since its conquest continue on the Arabian model.

Turkey. No regular coinage was formed by the Turks till they became masters of Constantinople. They resemble those of Persia and Arabia, having merely inscriptions on both sides.

Rome. Papal coinage originates with Hadrian I. size of silver pennies with the Pope's name on one side and SCUS PETRUS on the other. No coins appear from 975 to 1099 excepting of Leo the IX. In 1303 appear pennies of the senate and people of Rome, with Peter on one side and Paul on the other. These are Groats of Clement V. with his portrait three quarters length, but the side-head begins with Sixtus V. in 1470. Gold was first coined by John XXII. in 1316. The coins of Alexander VI. Julius II. and Leo IX. are remarkable for beauty and elegance.

Milan. Coinage begins with Charlemagne. The first coin of the family of Visconti occurs in 1330 under Azo. The set finishes with Louis XII.

Naples. Coinage begins in 840 and 880 with Duke Sergius and bishop Aihanasius.

(To be continued)

SYMBOLS ETC., (*Continued.*)

The Goddesses represented on medals are as follows.

Juno is represented by a beautiful young woman, sometimes with a diadem, sometimes without any badge, which is reckoned a sufficient distinction, as the goddesses all wear badges. Sometimes she appears as the goddess of marriage and is then veiled to the midd'le, and sometimes to the toes. She is known by the peacock, a bird sacred to her from the fable of Argus.

Minerva is very common on the coins of Alexander the Great, and her bust has been mistaken by the celebrated painter Le Brun, for the hero himself. Her symbols are her armor, the spear in her right hand and the regis with a Medusa's head in her left, an owl commonly standing by her.

Diana of Ephesus, is commonly represented on the Greek imperial coins, and appears with a great number of breasts supposed to denote universal nature. She is supported by two deer and carries a pannier of fruit upon her head. The bust of this goddess is known by the crescent on her brow, and sometimes by the bow and quiver at her side.

Venus is known by an apple, the prize of Leauty, in her hand. Sometimes she is distinguished only by her total want of dress, but is always to be known by her extraordinary beauty, and at times adorned with pearls about the neck.

Cupid is occasionally met with on the Syrian coins and is known by his infancy and wings.

Cybele is known by turreted crown and lion, or is seen in a chariot drawn by lions.

Ceres is known by her garland of wheat and is common on the Sicilian coins; that Island being remarkable for its fertility, sometimes she has two serpents by her, or is drawn in a chariot by them. She carries in her hand the torches as if in search of her daughter, Proserpine.

Proserpine herself is sometimes met with on coins with the name of Xoon or the girl.

The Egyptian Isis has a bud or flower on her head, a symbol of the perpetual bloom of the inhabitants of heaven. She carries also a sistrum, The Sidonian Astarte appears on a Globe, sup-

ported on a chariot with two wheels, drawn by two horses.

These are Deities most commonly represented on the Greek coins. The more uncommon are Saturn with a sythe or with a hook. Vulcan with his tongs on the reverse of a coin of Thyatira, represented at work in the presence of Minerva. Adramus a Sycilian god is sometimes represented on coins with a dog. Amibis an Egyptian deity has a dog's head.

Atis is known by the Phrygian bonnet. Crastor and Pollux by a star on the head of each. Pluto by his old face, and dishevelled hair and beard, and a hook. Flora by her crown of flowers. Nemesis by her wheel and Pan by his horns and ears of a beast.

EARLIEST KNOWN COINS.

It was about 800 years before Christ that the first money was actually coined. There is much doubt in the minds of antiquarians as to the precise spot where the custom had its origin, Herodotus ascribes it to the Lydians, but his authority is not conclusive.

The oldest coins extant, and probably the first coins ever made, are from Asia Minor. Miletus, a city south of Ephesus, on the shore of the Icarian Sea, probably produced the first coined money, the gold stater. It is stamped on one side with a deep indentation. On the other, it has a rude picture of a lion's head. A die was evidently used, and the lump of metal placed in it, and a punch struck with a hammer drove the metal into the die and left the rude mark of the punch on the reverse of the coin. What induced the adoption of the lion's head as a design is left to conjecture. It is supposed by some to refer to the regal power of the lion, while others think that it had some connection with the worship of Cybele, the great goddess of the Ionians.

There is a somewhat similar coin which by numismatists is supposed to be of earlier date than the Ionian. It is a Lydian coin, and is one of the first, if not the earliest. These coins were the first specimens of what we call money.

THE NUMISMATIC JOURNAL.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

From Frank J. Pope, West Charlotte, Vt., his Catalogue of American copper coins. Collectors desiring to purchase, will do well to correspond with him.

From R. W. Mercer, 292½ Waco St., Cincinnati, Ohio, his price lists of indian relics, coins, medals, minerals, fossils, pottery etc.

From Lewis C. Boyesen, Egg Harbor City, N. J., his price list of Foreign and American coins.

PETERSONS COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR, a semi-monthly publication, containing descriptions of all counterfeit notes, as soon as they appear. Every number of the Detector contain likewise lists of all the National and State banks in the country, financial news and items, price current, reviews of the market, &c., and is in short, a very valuable publication. Subscription \$3. per year Monthly issue \$1.50 per year. Address T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia, Pa., for a specimen copy.

From J. Henry, 48 Devonshire Street, Queen Square, London, England, his list of coins, medals, books and engravings, &c.

"The literature of ancient coins is ridiculous only to those who do not understand it. The meanness of the materials is commonly the foundation of the sarcasms which are cast upon it. But all our learning is but recovery of ancient knowledge. And if coins contain a part of it, certainly they are not less valuable for being rusty, nor the study trifling which tends to the ascertainment of those that are genuine. Men are too much disposed to contemn such parts of learning as they are unacquainted with. But no one ever yet found fault with the science of coins who had judged it worth his while to inquire into the real utility of it. And one would think that the examples of so many illustrious names as have made collections of them, and of so many persons in all ages and countries, eminent for their extensive learning and sound judgement, who have occasionally had recourse to them, should incline others, if not to think favorably of it, at least to suspend their censure till the unprofitableness of it should haply be discovered. To survey the lineaments of the great men who have figured so long before us, and

to consider how far they correspond in our imagination with the mighty actions ascribed to them, and the many things which we have read of them, is without doubt a very pleasing amusement."

PETERSONS COIN BOOK containing fac-simile impressions of the coins of the world, will be found of great advantage to the collector in determining the nationality of coins. It will be sent by mail, postage paid, on receipt of \$1 by T. B. Peterson & Bros., Philadelphia Pa.

An apology is due to our subscribers and advertisers, for the delay [occasioned by illness] in issuing this number. We shall endeavor to have the Journal mailed regularly, on or before the 10th., of each month, excepting the October number which will, unavoidably, be late.

GLEANINGS.

A Washington dispatch, says several counterfeit coins have been submitted recently to the treasury by bankers. A counterfeit eagle has been discovered; a good imitation, but too thick. Its weight is right, but the gold is not of sufficient fineness. Another eagle is made of type metal, thickly washed with gold.

In 1872 the British government appropriated ten thousand pounds sterling to the purchase of coins for the British Museum. That collection is fast becoming one of the best in Europe.

Charles Dudley Warner says when he went buying ancient coins of the Greeks in Greece, he "looked in the face of a handsome greybeard, who asked me two thousand francs for a silver coin, which he said was a Solon, to see if there was any guile in his eye, but there was not. I cannot but hope that this race, which has learned to look honest, may some time become so."

NUMISMATICS, it is vain to deny, is a veritable passion, but one that is noble, agreeable and useful in its effects, because it predisposes the spirit to labor and study. While it purifies the sentiments and the taste, it removes *eunui* that most dangerous enemy of our race — S.

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